



February 7, 2018

Dear Representative/Senator,

On behalf of the undersigned national, state and local organizations, we are writing to urge your strong opposition to any efforts to bring the funding of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB” or the “Bureau”) under the Appropriations process. We oppose this measure on its merits but also believe attaching this provision, or the hundreds of other poison pill riders proposed for funding bills is simply an inappropriate avenue for achieving policy change. The CFPB was established by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010; it opened its doors as the nation’s only financial regulator completely devoted to consumer protection in July 2011. The bureau has been a lynchpin in the safeguards which have helped our economy to recover while protecting consumers from the worst practices of the financial sector.

Since its founding, the CFPB has been protecting consumers by ensuring that markets work in an open, transparent, and fair way. The Bureau’s mission is to hold financial companies accountable for being upfront about the costs of, and risks associated with, their products, and also to ensure that consumers are treated with dignity and respect, rather than set up to fail. The Bureau has successfully gone to bat for consumers, delivering results that are making markets work more fairly and putting a stop to fraud and abuse. In total, CFPB enforcements have resulted in nearly \$12 billion returned to over 29 million Americans who have been harmed by illegal, deceptive, and discriminatory practices of various companies. The agency’s rules, supervision, and other activities are saving money and aiding understanding for many millions more.

Because of this remarkable track record, it would be a serious mistake for Congress to undo the CFPB’s current independent funding. Like the other bank regulatory agencies, the CFPB is currently funded in a way that insulates it from the pressures Wall Street and other financial sectors—including payday and other high-cost lenders, as well as debt collectors and credit bureaus—can too easily manipulate. Making this change, as has been proposed in past financial services riders, would leave the CFPB more vulnerable than the Federal Reserve, the OCC, and the FDIC to industry influence, once again treating consumer financial protection as a less important matter. It would give Wall Street and the worst elements of the financial services industry endless lobbying opportunities to deny the CFPB the funding to do its job if and when the regulator took action that a sector of the industry did not like.

Failure to appropriately regulate the consumer financial marketplace was a central cause of the financial crisis that devastated the U.S. and global economies, costing tens of trillions of dollars, and many millions of jobs. The CFPB is a shining success story of the effort to correct the mistakes and close the gaps that led to that failure. It has required lenders who break the law to return billions of dollars directly to individual consumers, it is establishing a more level playing field in crucial areas of the market, it is providing information to consumers and research to the public, and it is doing these things in an accountable and transparent fashion.

The public overwhelmingly supports the mission of the CFPB, and supports the kinds of action it has taken. Americans see an agency responsibly undertaking the job given to it by Congress: making consumer financial markets fairer and more transparent, putting money back in the pockets of members of the public who were fleeced by illegal conduct, and policing rules of the road that make the financial system work better for responsible businesses and responsible consumers alike.

We also strongly oppose attaching any other poison pill policy riders aimed at weakening consumer final protection or financial regulation to must pass legislation. We have seen hundreds of ideological and unpopular policy proposals raised as possible riders to continuing resolutions on the budget and other popular legislation in order to gain the votes these poison pill provisions would not garner on their own. We believe this is an irresponsible avenue for enacting policy change and these riders should be rejected based on process concerns as well as on the merits.

For all of the reasons above, we urge members of Congress to oppose any poison pill financial reform policy riders, whether to put the CFPB under the normal Appropriations process, otherwise weaken the authority, structure or independence of the CFPB, or generally weaken oversight and regulation of our financial system.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

Alliance for a Just Society  
Allied Progress  
AFL-CIO  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers  
Americans for Financial Reform  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Center for Economic Justice  
Center for Effective Government  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Responsible Lending  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Consumer Action  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumer Watchdog  
Consumers Union  
Demos  
Fair Share  
Generation Progress  
Government Accountability Project  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
International Union, United Auto Workers, UAW  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Main Street Alliance  
MoveOn Civic Action  
Mobilization for Justice, Inc.

N.e.r.v.e. Inc  
NAACP  
National Association of Consumer Advocates  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Community Reinvestment Coalition  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients)  
National Consumers League  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Housing Resource Center  
National People's Action  
National Urban League  
Other98.org  
PICO National Network  
Prosperity Now  
Public Citizen  
TICAS  
UnidosUS  
United Food and Commercial Workers, International Union  
U.S. PIRG  
United States Student Association  
Voices of Progress  
Young Invincibles

## **State & Local Organizations**

### **Alaska**

Alaska PIRG

### **Alabama**

Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice  
Alabama Arise  
Birmingham Faith in Action  
Central Alabama Fair Housing Center  
Fair Housing Center of Northern Alabama  
First Presbyterian Church  
Gowen Consulting  
Tuscaloosa Citizens Against Predatory Practices

### **Arkansas**

Arkansans Against Abusive Payday Lending  
Arkansas Community Organization  
Arkansas Interfaith Alliance  
Arkansas Interfaith Worker Justice

### **Arizona**

Arizona PIRG  
Arizona Community Action Association  
AZ Consumers Council  
Campesinos Sin Fronteras  
Center for Economic Integrity

Family Housing Resources  
Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix, Inc.  
Newtown Community Development Corporation  
Old Pueblo Community Services  
WHEAT

**California**

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)  
California Reinvestment Coalition  
CALPIRG  
CCBHC, a public benefit non profit  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety  
Courage Campaign  
Fair Housing Council of Orange County  
Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, Inc.  
Fair Housing of Marin  
Fair Housing Foundation  
Faith in Community (Fresno)  
Holmes Unlimited  
Housing Equality Law Project (HELP)  
Housing Resource Center of Monterey County  
Housing Rights Center  
HPP CARES  
Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board  
Montebello Housing Development Corporation  
NCCPA Inc.  
NID-Housing Counseling Agency  
Nuestra Casa de East Palo Alto  
RCAC  
Shalom Center for T.R.E.E. of Life  
The Greenlining Institute  
University of San Francisco School of Law

**Colorado**

Colorado Progressive Coalition  
CoPIRG  
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center

**Connecticut**

CCAG  
Connecticut Fair Housing Center  
ConnPIRG  
Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut, Inc.

**Delaware**

Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement  
Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc.  
HOND, INC  
NCALL RESEARCH INC

Neighborhood House, Inc.

**Florida**

Alliance Legal Group

AmStar Litigation

Central Florida Community Development Corporation

Consumer Debt Association

Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches

Fair Housing Continuum, Inc.

Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection

Florida PIRG

Grand Central Law, PLLC

H.E.L.P. CDC

Housing and Education Alliance

Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc.

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc.

Jacobs Keeley, PLLC

NANAY CEDC

Organize Now

R. John Cole, II, & Associates, PA

Rebecca J Covey LLC

St. Petersburg Neighborhood Services, Inc. dba Neighborhood Home Solutions

The First Community Christian Pentecostal Church of God, Inc.

War on Poverty-Florida / RAISE Florida Network

**Georgia**

Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation

GA Sustainable Community Ventures

Georgia PIRG

Georgia Rural Urban Summit

Green Forest CDC

Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity

Morningstar Urban Development Inc.

Savannah-Chatham County Fair Housing Council, Inc.

TAPP Lumber

**Hawaii**

Habitat for Humanity West Hawaii

**Iowa**

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Iowa PIRG

South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

**Idaho**

Idaho Community Action Network

**Illinois**

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

Chestnut Credit Counseling Services

Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice  
Chicago Consumer Coalition  
Debt Counsel for Seniors and Disabled  
Family Credit Management Services  
Global Network CDC  
Gospel Justice Initiative  
Greater Southwest Development Corporation  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights  
HOPE Fair Housing Center  
Housing Action Illinois  
Illinois Asset Building Group  
Illinois PIRG  
MJK Legal Group LLC  
National Community Investment Fund  
NHS of Chicago  
NWSHC  
Oak Park Regional Housing Center  
Open Communities  
Partners In Community Building, Inc. (PICB)  
Project IRENE  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
South Suburban Housing Center  
Spanish Coalition for Housing  
The Chicago Urban League  
The Resurrection Project  
Woodstock Institute

### **Indiana**

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana  
HomesteadCS  
IACED  
Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network  
Jeffersonville Housing Services Corporation

### **Kansas**

Sunflower Community Action  
Kentucky  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Louisville Urban League

### **Louisiana**

Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center  
Lower 9th Ward NENA  
NZBC Urban Corporation  
PREACH

### **Massachusetts**

Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation  
Consumer Assistance Council, Inc.  
Consumer World

MA Affordable Housing Alliance  
Mass. Assoc. of Community Development Corporations  
MASSPIRG  
The Midas Collaborative  
United for a Fair Economy  
WBZ Call For Action

### **Maryland**

Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency  
Asian-American Homeownership Counseling, Inc.  
Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.  
HomeFree-USA  
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition  
Maryland PIRG  
Progressive Maryland  
Public Justice Center  
St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center  
The Development Corporation of Northwest Baltimore

### **Maine**

Coastal Enterprise, Inc.  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
Maine People's Alliance  
Massachusetts Consumers' Council, Inc.

### **Michigan**

Michigan Economic Impact Coalition  
PIRG in Michigan (PIRGIM)  
Telamon Corporation

### **Minnesota**

TakeAction Minnesota

### **Missouri**

Beyond Housing  
Credit & Homeownership Empowerment Services, Inc.  
Metropolitan Congregations United  
Missouri Faith Voices  
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment  
MoPIRG

### **Mississippi**

Coalition for a Prosperous Mississippi  
Covenant Faith Outreach Ministries-Covenant Community Development  
Mississippi Center for Justice  
Mississippi Faith Leaders United for Fair Lending  
Mississippians for Fair Lending

### **Montana**

First Congregational UCC Billings

Greater Yellowstone Central Labor Council  
Indian People's Action  
RDI Financial Inc  
Rural Dynamics, inc  
Montana Fair Housing  
Montana Organizing Project

**Nebraska**

Fair Housing Center of NE-IA

**Nevada**

Community Services of Nevada (CSNV)

**New Hampshire**

Granite State Organizing Project  
NHPIRG  
United Valley Interfaith Project

**New Jersey**

Fair Housing Council of Northern NJ  
Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey  
Law Offices of Lee M. Perlman  
New Jersey Citizen Action  
NJ PIRG

**New Mexico**

NMPIRG

**New York**

Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc.  
Bankruptcy Law Center  
Buffalo Urban League  
Center for NYC Neighborhoods  
Central New York Citizens in Action, Inc.  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corp.  
Empire Justice Center  
Friends of the North Country, Inc.  
Genesee Co-op FCU  
Housing Help Inc.  
Human Development Services of Westchester  
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.  
Margert Community Corporation  
New Economy Project  
NYPIRG  
Pratt Area Community Council  
RUPCO  
Syracuse Habitat for Humanity, Inc.  
Westchester Residential Opportunities, INC  
Western New York Law Center  
Zeno Gloro Law Office



### **North Carolina**

CCCS of Greater Greensboro, A division of Family Service of the Piedmont Inc.  
Durham Regional Finance Center  
Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina  
Financial Pathways of the Piedmont  
Max Gardner Law  
NCPIRG  
North Carolina Consumers Council  
OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling  
Reinvestment Partners  
Robeson County Community Development Corporation, Inc.

### **North Dakota**

North Dakota Economic Security and Prosperity Alliance

### **Ohio**

COHHIO  
Communities United For Action  
Cozmyk Law Offices  
Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corp.  
ESOP (Empowering & Strengthening Ohio's People)  
Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc.  
Famicos Foundation  
HOLA Ohio  
HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton  
Housing Opportunities Made Equal  
Housing Research & Advocacy Center  
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center  
Mills Mills Fiely and Lucas  
Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland  
Ohio CDC Association  
Ohio PIRG  
WIN  
Working In Neighborhoods

### **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Policy Institute

### **Oregon**

Innovative Changes  
NEDCO (Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation)  
Oregon Consumer League  
Oregon PIRG (OSPIRG)  
Portland Housing Center  
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

### **Pennsylvania**

ACTION Housing, Inc.  
Affordable Housing Centers of Pennsylvania

Bucks County Housing Group  
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition  
Clarifi  
Community Legal Services, Philadelphia  
Gemini Consultants  
Integra Home Counseling, Inc.  
Keaveney Legal Group  
Keystone Research Center  
Northwest Counseling Service, Inc.  
PennPIRG  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania National Organization for Women  
Schuylkill Community Action  
THE ONE LESS FOUNDATION  
One Stop Career Center of PR Inc

**Rhode Island**

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley  
RI Coalition for Payday Lending Reform  
RI State Council of Churches  
RIPIRG

**South Carolina**

Cantrell Legal PC  
Columbia Consumer Education Council  
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Cen

**Tennessee**

Binghamton Development Corporation  
Good Neighbor Foundation  
New Level Community Development Corp  
Residential Resources, Inc.  
Tennessee Citizen Action

**Texas**

Austin Tenants' Council  
Project LIFT  
Strong Families Coalition of Greater Tarrant County  
Texas Appleseed  
TexPIRG

**Utah**

Coalition of Religious Communities

**Vermont**

Vermont Legal Aid  
VT PIRG

**Virginia**

Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

Virginia Poverty Law Center

**Washington**

Main Street Alliance

Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

Parkview Services

Washington Statewide Poverty Action Network

WASHPIRG

**Wisconsin**

Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee

Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

WISPIRG

**West Virginia**

West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy

West Virginia Citizen Action Group